

2013-2014 ZAMBIA COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS

The Fulbright Program is sponsored and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State, and awards scholarships to lecture, conduct research, and study abroad. The program is managed in-country by the Public Affairs Section (PAS) at U.S. Embassy Lusaka.

Country guidelines contain **summary** information about the Fulbright award, and logistical and program support provided through ECA, contact information for PAS or the U.S. Embassy, and advisory information about your host country. These guidelines are an important resource, and should be reviewed prior to departing for your host country. This document may be supplemented by PAS during your arrival orientation at post. Please note that this information is subject to change.

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION OF U.S. EMBASSY LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) is responsible for managing Fulbright in Zambia. PAS offices are located at the U.S. Embassy at Ibex Hill on Kabulonga Road. Embassy hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Friday. The Embassy website is: <http://zambia.usembassy.gov>

Below is contact information for PAS staff who are your points of contact while in-country:

- Priscilla Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer HernandezPA@state.gov
- AJ Jagelski, Deputy Public Affairs Officer JagelskiAJ@state.gov
- Chando Mapoma, Cultural Affairs Specialist MapomaC@state.gov
- Carla Minor, Education Adviser MinorC@state.gov
- Austin Ngoma, Cultural Affairs Assistant NgomaA@state.gov

PAS via Embassy switchboard: (0211-357-000) ext. 7034

PAS fax line: (0211-357-068)

Embassy after-hours number: (0211-357-221)

Fulbright scholars/students in the U.S. may write to PAS at: Public Affairs Officer, 2310 Lusaka Place, Dulles, VA 20189-2310.

All Fulbright grantees must register with the embassy in case of emergency. This can be done on this website at any time: <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

YOUR FULBRIGHT GRANT AND THE BINATIONAL NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The Fulbright Program is administered in accordance with regulations established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB). The Board has ruled that Fulbright grant

funds cannot duplicate benefits received under other auspices. Therefore, grantees who receive host government or host institution financial contributions (for example, international travel, per diem/subsistence/housing allowance) in cash or kind do not receive allowances for these grant benefits. Grantees who receive a concurrent grant to the same country under other auspices may have their Fulbright grants reduced if Fulbright grant benefits are duplicated by the other grant.

Host country governments and institutions support the exchange program through two ways: (a) *monetary contributions*, which result in a sharing of program costs, or (b) *non-monetary assistance* to enhance the exchange experience for the guest scholar.

WHAT THE FULBRIGHT GRANT PROVIDES

For Student Grantees

Fulbright student grants have two components: (1) a base amount, and (2) a monthly maintenance allowance. Additional funds may be included in your grant as allowances and are described separately. Benefits authorized by ECA are paid in U.S. dollars through the Institute of International Education (IIE).

1. The base amount is provided to cover initial or one-time start-up expenses such as:
 - a. Unaccompanied and/or excess baggage.
 - b. Miscellaneous costs, such as visa fees, permits, medical exams, immunizations, etc.This is a fixed sum in each grant and may not reimburse all expenses completely.
2. A monthly maintenance allowance is provided to cover recurring subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, and food. The allowance is based upon the estimated standard living costs in the country of assignment.

For Scholar Grantees

Fulbright scholar grants have three components: (1) travel and relocation, (2) a monthly maintenance allowance, and (3) a monthly stipend. Additional funds may be included in your grant as special allowances and are described separately. Benefits are based upon the estimated standard living costs in the country of assignment, and are not intended to duplicate U.S. salary levels or the standard of living of U.S. diplomatic personnel. Benefits authorized by ECA are paid in U.S. dollars through the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

1. Travel and Relocation
 - a. Unaccompanied and/or excess baggage.
 - b. Relocation allowance for expenses such as visa fees, permits, medical exams, immunizations, etc. This is a fixed sum in each grant and may not reimburse all expenses completely.
2. A monthly maintenance allowance is provided to cover recurring subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, and food.
3. Monthly base stipend

FULBRIGHT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Fulbright award requires submission of two reports: 1) at the interim or mid-point of the grant, and 2) a final report prior to departing the host country. Grantees will receive instructions from CIES or IIE, as appropriate, on filing these reports on-line.

PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL

Everyone planning a trip to Zambia should take the time to read through the U.S. Embassy's country specific information sheet at www.travel.state.gov and [enroll with the U.S. Embassy](http://www.travel.state.gov/step) at www.travel.state.gov/step before they travel. Enrollment ensures that you receive important safety information released by the Embassy to Americans residing in Zambia.

Travel to Zambia

Grantee air travel is coordinated by the travel agency, HRG Worldwide, which will bill IIE or CIES directly for the costs of your tickets. HRG staff will assist you with your reservation and then send your reservation to IIE or CIES for approval. You must book a round-trip ticket with a return date that corresponds to the grant end date. All air travel and all air shipments paid for with United States Government funds must conform to the Fly America Act, which requires that all such travel and shipments be on "U.S. flag" airlines where such service is available.

Transportation in Zambia

Fulbrighters who plan to drive in Zambia should obtain an international driver's license from the American Automobile Association (AAA) before leaving the U.S.

Visas and Residence/Work/Research Permits

Grantees should take copies of all identification certificates and documents, including marriage and birth certificates, driver's licenses, etc., to the assignment country. Make photocopies of the first two pages of the passport, which should be kept separate from the actual passport in case of loss or theft. Also Fulbrighters should bring extra passport photos for obtaining visas and conducting other business.

Visas

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) requires a visa for all U.S. citizens coming to Zambia, including Fulbrighters. These are best arranged before traveling to Zambia, as the US-obtained visa seems to facilitate the residing permit process once Fulbrighters arrive in Zambia. Zambian visas are available through the Zambian Embassy in Washington DC, at <http://www.zambiaembassy.org/>. Usually, the visa you are issued through the Embassy of Zambia will be a business or study visa.

On arrival at immigration at Lusaka International Airport, Fulbrighters should request a multiple-entry visa and a business visa designation. (Since you have already obtained a visa through the Washington DC-based Embassy of Zambia, this follow-on visa should be no cost). Grantees should carry Fulbright documentation to show immigration officials at the airport. The period of stay in Zambia shall be determined by the immigration officer at the airport.

Neither the DC-issued nor the follow-on airport visa is extendable. Fulbrighters will have 30 days in which to apply for a temporary or study permit, depending on the nature of Fulbright work. Due to the uncertainty of the process, Fulbrighters should start this process at the **beginning** of the 30 days.

Fulbright Students seeking a study permit must produce the following original documentation to the Zambian Office of Immigration within 30 days of arriving in Lusaka:

- Application form (form 7);
- Two recent passport size photographs;
- Photocopies of current passport;
- Letter of acceptance from the institution/school; and
- Cover letter to the Director General, requesting study permit.

Fulbright Scholars seeking a temporary permit for a specific length of time must produce the following original documentation to the Zambian Office of Immigration within 30 days of arriving in Lusaka:

- A request in writing shall be made, giving reasons why the scholar seeks a temporary permit;
- Certified photocopies of passport;
- Two recent certified passport size photographs;
- Bank Guarantee/return air ticket; and
- Cover letter from prospective company/institution to the Director General, requesting that you be granted a temporary permit for a defined length of time.

Please note: It is the responsibility of the Fulbright Student or Scholar to obtain a permit and to renew said permit as necessary. The US Embassy is not involved in this process.

Should you need to renew or extend your permit, you will need the following:

- Completion of form 12;
- Cover letter giving reasons why an extension is desired; and
- Original temporary permit.

Further details on the research application process may be obtained at www.zambiaembassy.org or for specific questions, contact the Embassy of Zambia, Washington, DC , 2419 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington D.C., 20008-2851; tel; (202) 265-9717; fax (202) 332-0826. Guidelines for research permits and applications forms can be found on the Zambian Embassy's website.

Sending and Receiving Mail

Personal Mail

Fulbright scholars—not students—in Zambia have been approved for access to the pouch to send and receive first-class letter mail only (maximum of two pounds). Letter mail means letter mail only—no exceptions. Misuse jeopardizes this privilege for all grantees. Diplomatic pouch privileges are not extended to Fulbrighters. Mail sent to the personal mail address will not be irradiated.

Magazines, newspapers, videocassettes, and package mail are not authorized. Grantees may send first-class letter mail back to the United States through the pouch; mail can be dropped off at the embassy. Grantees may wish to bring a supply of American stamps with them. Forms available at U.S. Post Offices make it possible to purchase stamps by mail. The address format for correspondence is as follows:

Your Name (**Fulbrighter**)
2310 Lusaka Pl.
Dulles, VA 20189-2310

You may also use the following international mail address:

Your name (**Fulbrighter**)
Office of Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy
P.O. Box 31617
Lusaka, Zambia

Zambian mail service is not reliable and theft is common. First class letter mail from the U.S. is best sent through the pouch when possible. Mail from third countries is more dependable if first sent to the U.S. and then shipped to Zambia via pouch. Pouch mail usually takes two to four weeks from the time it leaves Washington, D.C.

Books and Educational Materials sent by Diplomatic Pouch

Fulbrighters have access to the diplomatic pouch for sending a maximum of four 8.5"x11" copy paper-size boxes of books and other *education materials for personal use* in Fulbright-related work during Fulbright assignment duration in Zambia. Use of the diplomatic pouch is a privilege that comes with responsibility; if abused, the privilege can be withdrawn. Please advise your relatives and friends not to send birthday and holiday packages to you via the diplomatic pouch address as to do so jeopardizes the privilege. All package mail in excess of the four permitted boxes will be returned to the U.S. at your expense. This rule is strictly enforced and not negotiable.

No materials can be sent back to the U.S. by pouch at any time during your stay. Several months before departure, Fulbrighters should start to determine the mode by which they will ship back their goods (accompanied air, unaccompanied freight, and/or international mail) and secure necessary export permits, if applicable.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: In the past, abuse by several Fulbrighters caused near revocation of privileges for all program participants. Anyone who violates pouch regulations will be barred from use and will have to make other arrangements for handling personal and professional correspondence.

For the four boxes of books, ECA strongly recommends sturdy mailing boxes and reliable mailing tape such as filament (strapping) tape. Each box cannot exceed 50 pounds. The combined volume of the entire shipment must not exceed 6 cubic feet. The grantee will be responsible for shipment costs if the limit is exceeded. All other restrictions as in the 14 FAM

700 apply. Boxes are handled very roughly in transit. Overloaded boxes or flimsy boxes will split. Boxes sent through the diplomatic pouch are neither registered nor insured. Most boxes eventually arrive at the embassy post. However, ECA recommends that Fulbrighters not send anything in the boxes that cannot be replaced. Shipping time for boxes is hard to predict. Plan for up to six to eight weeks in transit. Put a valid return address in the upper left corner and repeat the return address on a note inside the boxes.

ADDRESSING THE PACKAGE:

Return address in upper left-hand corner:

Grantee Name
Street Address
City, State Zip

Mailing Address:

Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Department of State
2310 Lusaka Pl.
Washington, D.C. 20521 - 2310

In lower left-hand corner of the box write:

UNCLASSIFIED VIA AIR POUCH
Your Name
FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Grantees sending only one package should write "1 of 1" in the lower right-hand corner. Grantees sending more than one package should number each package in a series and circle the markings, e.g., "1 of 3", "2 of 3", and "3 of 3".

Packages can be shipped through the U.S. Postal Service or delivery services, such as UPS. Grantees are responsible for paying domestic postage or shipping costs from their homes to Washington, D.C. Packages sent through Fedex Express are not accepted through the pouch. Packages sent through other methods of Fedex, such as Fedex ground, are accepted.

Anything that needs to be shipped beyond the weight/size/time limits allowed by the pouch can be sent reliably but expensively through DHL World Wide Express. Such packages should be directed to the Fulbrighter, in care of PAS, through the U.S. Embassy, Ibex Hill, Lusaka, Zambia. The embassy mailroom must x-ray all incoming boxes before forwarding them to PAS where the boxes will be held for pick-up. Items of value sent via DHL may be subject to Zambian customs inspection and applicable duties. Please note that these duties can be quite excessive; costs should be researched prior shipping. It is the sender's responsibility to stay abreast of new or revised restrictions that might apply to their shipments; if in doubt, ask.

Customs Restrictions on Professional and Personal Affects

Besides the limited pouch shipment and airline excess baggage, grantees may airmail materials addressed to themselves via international mail to their Zambian address, but are subject to paying customs duty at the local post office before taking possession of the materials. All goods taken

into the host country must be declared. There are no duties levied on equipment, such as computers, that are imported for personal use. Firearms may not be brought in without prior arrangements with the Department of Customs and the host country police department. Pets require special handling and prior clearance with the Department of Animal Health before they can be imported into the host country. Please be aware that additional transit stops may also require clearance when traveling with pets. The Community Liaison Office at the U.S. Embassy can provide additional information: LusakaC@state.gov.

Schooling for Dependents

Advance registration for dependents' schooling is necessary. There are several international-standard schools in Lusaka:

- The American International School (<http://www.aislusaka.org/>);
- International School of Lusaka (<http://www.english-schools.org/zambia/international-school-of%20lusaka.htm>); and
- Lusaka International Community School (<http://www.lics.sch.zm/>).

Yearly tuition varies; information is best received directly from the schools' websites and admissions offices. Fulbrighters will need to make arrangements independently, and in advance, in order to be certain their children can be enrolled. Grantees should contact the school's principal or admissions officer to start the process. As is often the case with overseas schools, services for special needs students may be somewhat limited, so parents are encouraged to investigate these services carefully if that is an area of concern.

PAS AND EMBASSY SUPPORT

In an effort to support U.S. Fulbright scholars/students and their families, the following information is provided by various departments of the US Embassy, Lusaka.

Consulate Services

U.S. citizens can obtain Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy, Zambia, website](http://zambia.usembassy.gov) (<http://zambia.usembassy.gov>). You may also obtain global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts and Country Specific Information for Zambia. If you do not have Internet access, you may contact the call center: 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00am to 8:00pm EST, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

When you arrive in Zambia, you should share your contact information with the US Embassy, so that you will receive travel advisories and warnings. If your contact information changes, please update your information with the Embassy via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) (<http://travel.state.gov/step>). It is important to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in Zambia in case of an emergency.

U.S. Embassy

Subdivision 694/Stand 100

Kabulonga District
Ibex Hill Road
Lusaka 10101
Main switchboard number: 0211-357-000
For emergencies after hours: 0211-357-000 or 0966-877-805
American Citizen Services Queries: ACSLusaka@state.gov

Security

Zambia has a rising crime rate, with Lusaka and the other major cities moving from petty crime to more violent crime, or crime involving weapons. Violent crime is still probably less than in a large city in the U.S. and some places are safer than others. Any special precautions or hazards will be mentioned. The embassy warden system notifies American citizens of important safety or security information. Fulbrighters **MUST** register with the Embassy's Consular Section to ensure participation in this system.

The same sort of "street smarts" that provide protection in the United States also work here, including staying alert, watching ahead and being aware of who is behind, walking purposefully, parking in lighted areas, etc. Employees and grantees often feel more secure on public streets when wearing more casual clothing, not wearing jewelry and not carrying a handbag or briefcase.

Care should be taken in arranging for a secured apartment or house with solid doors and bars on accessible windows.

Use caution when traveling to national parks or nature preserves. Travelers should only use the services of reputable travel firms or knowledgeable guides when traveling on safaris or to nature preserves. Safaris are best undertaken with a minimum of two vehicles so that there is a back-up in case of mechanical failure.

Arrival and Temporary Lodging

Grantees must provide CIES or IIE with their final itineraries **at least 3 weeks in advance**.

Fulbright Scholars and Students must arrange their own accommodation. If needed, PAS will provide Fulbrighters with a list of hotels or lodges for temporary accommodation, which the Fulbrighter must arrange until permanent lodging is found. The PAS office will put Fulbrighters in touch with each other, in an effort to share information and experiences.

U.S. Embassy Access

Fulbrighters are not issued badges for embassy access. If Fulbrighters request a meeting with embassy personnel, he or she should provide name, date of birth and passport number of all accompanying family members to ensure access onto the compound.

Check Cashing and Local Banking Arrangements

The embassy does not cash personal checks for Fulbright grantees due to government restrictions. Grantees may use VISA ATM cards (MasterCard is available but less prevalent), which are found at local ATMs all around the country. Before departure from the U.S, grantees

should inform their banks that they plan to use ATM cards in Zambia; otherwise, fraud triggers may prevent use of the card. It is also advisable to set limits on ATM cash withdrawal in case of theft/fraud. Foreign Exchange Bureaus are available and all local banks offer exchange of American money, which should be new notes with the large face. Travelers' checks can be cashed at limited locations, including banks and hotels, but commissions are astronomical, often approaching 30%. It is recommended that grantees arrive in country with a cash supply sufficient to cover expenses for the first week, i.e. temporary lodging/transport. A major U.S. credit card can be useful for travel outside Zambia and for emergencies.

Prior to their departure from the U.S., Fulbrighters should consult their U.S. banks concerning overdraft privileges. When mail is delayed, scholars and students may not have current information about account balances. Additional U.S. dollar travelers' checks and a major U.S. credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Diner's Club, etc.) are valuable for travel and emergencies. Most retail facilities such as hotels, restaurants, grocery and clothing stores, pharmacies, and gas stations accept credit cards, but you want to use them with caution.

Local Health Services

Local outpatient and inpatient clinic access is available on a pay per visit basis for Fulbrighters in Zambia.

Fulbright grantees should ensure current tetanus immunizations. Vaccines for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, and current booster/vaccines against childhood diseases (tetanus diphtheria, polio, and measles/mumps/rubella) are also strongly recommended for adults, as well as children. The rabies series is also strongly recommended for children, as well as any adults who may come in contact with animals (i.e. runners and/or bikers), as most animals are not vaccinated in Zambia. For additional information, consult the Centers for Disease Control's website: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>.

Grantees should carry copies of complete medical records and basic information that will enable quick and efficient medical assistance, if necessary. Seek the guidance of your personal physician prior to departure from the U.S. in selecting basic health information records to bring with you. Grantees should carry a good supply of aspirin, vitamins, band-aids, and preferred over the counter medications. Grantees should either bring enough prescription medications to last through their assignment or find out the international name of each prescription, since drug names often differ from those used in the U.S.

Fulbright grantees have health care benefits under the Department of State Group Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE). ASPE is a health benefits program; it is not an all-purpose health insurance, and it is subject to limitations. Grantees should review, *Accident and Sickness Program for Exchange Participants in Programs Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*. Traveler's medical insurance, particularly emergency evacuation coverage, is strongly recommended, especially for grantees based outside the capital city. The Fulbright grant provides limited medical and medical evacuation (medevac) coverage for the grantee only. Fulbrighters must purchase private medical evacuation coverage for dependents. Fulbrighters should bring a major credit card (with several hundred dollars available credit) in case of a medical evacuation to South Africa, as few health care facilities there accept

U.S. health insurance plans. Fulbrighters are strongly encouraged to provide copies of their medical evacuation coverage documents with PAS in the event of an emergency.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Permanent Housing and Household Goods

Grantees are responsible for selection of long-term housing, including negotiation and signing of a rental contract. In the past, host institutions sometimes provided housing, but due to sub-standard arrangements, grantees now receive a housing allowance and are able to secure their own housing. It should be noted that the American Embassy has no mechanism to secure housing on behalf of private American citizens and cannot “arrange” for housing prior to a grantee’s arrival. Efforts in the past to assist informally with this process have resulted in unsatisfactory arrangements in which grantees were not pleased with either the accommodation or its price.

Grantees should expect to be in temporary lodging for up to two weeks when looking for housing. When conducting a housing search, real estate agents have proven helpful in finding affordable housing. Furnished housing is rare and expensive when available. Past grantees have found shared accommodation arrangements to be economical. Landlords usually require three to six months rent in advance. In Zambia, it is standard to hire a guard as a preventive security measure, or if living in a complex, to share the cost of a guard’s salary.

Household effects are readily available but usually expensive. Lusaka has stores similar to K-Mart and Wal-Mart that offer a wide variety of consumer goods. There are several shopping malls and convenience stores in the capital city. Food is not expensive by U.S. standards, and grocery stores are plentiful.

Computers and Other Electronic Equipment

Fulbrighters do not have duty-free privileges, so all computers and electronic equipment brought into the country must be taken out of the country when the grant is completed or duty must be paid. Previous Fulbrighters have donated computer equipment to host universities at the end of their stay in exchange for the university's obtaining duty-free entry. Do not send computers as unaccompanied baggage.

Be warned that the Internet is both expensive and less reliable than what you may be accustomed to in the US. Service is sold by volume of data transferred (around \$100 per gigabit), making Skype and YouTube prohibitive for some.

Zamtel recently rolled out DSL in sections of Lusaka, which thus far appears to be comparable in reliability, but much less expensive if someone is going to be a heavy Internet user.

There are numerous ISP providers that are currently offering Internet connectivity in the country. E-mail may be the best method of communication, both inside Zambia and with friends and colleagues elsewhere. There are various ISP providers and some of them include the following:

iConnect
CopperNet Solutions
Zamtel
Zamnet

Microlink
SavannaCom
AfriConnect

Fulbrighters may also access the Internet at the American Center or Internet cafes located in Lusaka and several larger towns.

Most laptop power adapters today handle anything from 100 volts to 240, making them interchangeable from the US to Africa, but you should check. Read the INPUT section of the label on your adapter. Power outages and power fluctuations are common and can destroy a computer. The best solution is to bring a laptop which does not require a transformer and can easily convert from 120 to 220 volts. Another option is to purchase a transformer to convert your computer from 110 to 220 volts, and a heavy-duty surge protector and a voltage regulator. All can be purchased in-country.

Academic Life

The University of Zambia (UNZA) is the country's national institution of higher learning with an enrollment of more than 15,000 students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university's website address is <http://www.unza.zm/>

Academic Calendar

The academic year runs from January through December. There are two semesters: January to June and July to December. Fulbright lecturers should plan to arrive in advance of their starting semester. While classes may not actually start on dates scheduled, course assignments are often decided during the last semester of the previous academic year. Given this, lecturers must be present before classes are scheduled to start.

Teaching Requirements, Attendance, and Staff Hours

Lecturers may be assigned up to four courses, due to staff shortages in various departments. As stated in the Fulbright grant, PAS expects all lecturers to fulfill their professional responsibilities, including class attendance, faculty meetings, special projects, etc. Lecturers should communicate with their department heads as soon as possible to get an idea of classes to be assigned; however, Fulbright lecturers should also take note of workload assigned to them, and advise PAS if the host department is unbalanced in assignments.

Phoning Home and Mobile Phones

Telephone lines and cell phones are widely used, but most U.S. cell phones are not functional in Zambia. There are currently three cell phone providers and new cell phones can be purchased for as little as \$25, while a used phone can cost even less. The current providers are Zain, MTN, and CellZ.

AT&T does have a contract with MTN in Zambia, but service costs approximately \$3.50 per minute. The three providers are more or less equal in quality and reliability. The website below will produce a map which will tell you where each provider has service:

<http://www.mobileworldlive.com/coverage.asp>

Some phone providers sell inexpensive, unlimited data plans for smart phones, which is a very nice supplement to expensive and unreliable Internet connections on laptops.

Local Transportation and the Used Car Market

Within Lusaka, the city is spread out enough that both daily activities and special events will require personal transportation. Public transportation is available in the form of taxicabs and buses.

Daytime transportation includes crowded and sometimes dangerously driven mini-buses, unmarked taxis, and walking on uneven urban sidewalks or busy secondary streets with no lighting and no sidewalks. Taking responsibility for personal safety is imperative. Taxis around town cost US \$4 or US \$10 or much more depending on how far from the town center you travel, and whether or not you are the only passenger. All registered taxis are painted blue. Any other regular vehicle that is offering its services as a taxi is a pirate taxi. For your own safety, avoid pirate taxis and use registered taxis.

With regard to mini-buses, they cost about a dollar. Registered mini-buses are also painted blue like taxis, but Fulbrighters are advised not to use mini-buses for transport. They are known to not always follow the road traffic laws, putting their passengers in danger, nor do they often meet vehicle safety standards. At night, it is best to pre-book a taxi, and to develop a "regular customer" relationship with a taxi driver or two. Lack of bike paths, inadequate sidewalks, poor night lighting and traffic congestion make bicycle riding at peak traffic times and in the evening dangerous.

In the past, some Fulbrighters have purchased vehicles that are locally available in the range of US \$3,000 – \$7,000. The Public Affairs staff cannot assist with auto purchases, registration or insurance, but will pass along any information they may have about available cars from departing embassy personnel or other sources. Choose the seller carefully; scams involving the sale of stolen cars have been reported.

Transport outside of Lusaka can be accomplished through the central bus station downtown. There are various bus companies that freight people to other towns and across the borders to neighboring countries. Again, caution is advised when taking this form of transportation. Even long distance travel in modern buses can be unsafe, both because of criminal activity aboard the buses and because of hazardous driving conditions.

Roads are generally poorly maintained, with numerous potholes even on major thoroughfares. Travel via passenger train is unsafe, particularly during the rainy seasons, because of the lack of routine maintenance and safety checks.

Fulbrighters who plan to drive should obtain an international driver's license from the American Automobile Association (AAA) before leaving the U.S. Japanese vehicles are common here, and therefore spare parts are easily available. Driving in Zambia is different from driving in the U.S. Excessive speed, unpredictable local driving habits, poor vehicle maintenance, and the lack of basic safety equipment on many vehicles are daily hazards. Vehicle travel outside major cities

at night should be avoided due to the poor condition of the roads and the threat of banditry. High clearance or four-wheel drive vehicles are essential for driving outside major cities and to game parks. During the rainy season, many roads are passable only with four-wheel drive vehicles.

Fulbrighters are not granted duty-free privileges to purchase or import vehicles. For that reason, Fulbrighters are advised not to import vehicles, as import duty is very expensive and delays are common in clearing vehicles through customs. The Embassy and PAS cannot assist with customs clearance.

Other Websites

Consular Information Sheet <http://zambia.usembassy.gov/servicesforamericans.html>
 State Alumni <http://alumni.state.gov>
 Fulbright Association <http://www.fulbright.org>

Major Newspapers or Country Specific Resources

The Times of Zambia: <http://www.times.co.zm/>
 Zambian Daily Mail: <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/>
 The Post: <http://www.postzambia.com/cgi-sys/defaultwebpage.cgi>

Public Holidays

In addition to observing U.S. holiday, the U.S. Embassy also observes Zambian holidays, according to the following holiday schedule for 2013:

January 1	Tuesday	New Year's Day	US / Zambian
January 21	Monday	Martin Luther King Birthday	US
February 18	Monday	Presidents' Day	US
March 8	Friday	International Women's Day	Zambian
March 12	Tuesday	Youth Day	Zambian
March 29	Friday	Good Friday	Zambian
April 1	Monday	Easter Monday	Zambian
May 1	Wednesday	Labor Day	Zambian
May 27	Monday	Memorial Day	US
July 1	Monday	Heroes Day	Zambian
July 2	Tuesday	Unit Day	Zambian
July 4	Thursday	Independence Day	US
August 5	Monday	Farmer's Day	Zambian
September 2	Monday	Labor Day	US
October 14	Monday	Columbus Day	US
October 24	Thursday	Independence Day	Zambian

November 11	Monday	Veterans Day	US
November 28	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	US
December 25	Wednesday	Christmas Day	US/Zambian

When a US/Zambian holiday falls on a Sunday, Federal Offices and establishments will be closed to the public on the following Monday. Whenever a US holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be considered a holiday. If a Zambian Holiday falls on a Saturday the preceding Friday is **not** considered a holiday, unless officially declared by Cabinet.